

and many were complicated cases; all but a very few were unable to work on admission. Our great difficulty has been to get working-class patients to apply in the initial stage of the disease and to find them suitable work afterwards. The average age of the patients was about 28 years, the average stay in the sanatorium was 15 weeks, the average gain in weight was about 18 pounds, and the average cost per patient per week was approximately 25s. Our sanatorium has been practically self-supporting from the beginning and we have enabled the working men of this county to provide for themselves and those over the age of 15 years depending upon them sanatorium treatment, should they require it, at the nominal cost of 1s. per year per man. We are fully satisfied with the excellent results obtained.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

W. ROBINSON,

May 27th, 1905.

Chairman of the Committee.

MORPHINE AND CHLOROFORM.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—It has been recognised almost from the introduction of chloroform by those intimate in its administration that patients who were under the immediate influence of morphine or opium required less of the vapour of chloroform and a shorter time than those who were not under its benign influence to produce insensibility. In fact, by some the preliminary administration of morphine has been recommended, and although I am personally adverse to it as a point of routine it is not unreasonable to admit that some patients would be benefited by it. As a matter of experience it is not advisable to give it before the administration of nitrous oxide gas, and any medical man who happens to know that his patient is taking opium at the time of an intended administration should inform the administrator for the sake both of the patient and all concerned. Through this inadvertence one of my patients determined never to have "gas" again.

Some years ago I was requested by the late Dr. J. Braxton Hicks to administer chloroform to a patient who had been cured of the habit of the *piqûre* to the amount of 23 grains of morphine in the day. Although I anticipated some incidental difference there was none and unless I had known I should have classed the case as normal. A little time ago I was asked by Dr. H. H. Murphy of Twickenham to administer chloroform to a patient under cure in a home for the same trouble. It was not known to what extent the poor fellow had used the syringe, but he had been reduced whilst under treatment to 41 grains of morphine in the 24 hours, and it was whilst under this amount that I gave him the vapour of chloroform. There was nothing to observe except, as in the former case, an entire absence of the falsely called "excitement stage" and I was more occupied with the fact that he was fat and therefore might show some abnormality. He suffered from three rather extensive abscesses. The first case, it will be seen, was cured of the habit and the second had been much reduced in quantity. When it is supposed to represent 287 grains of opium, I think the last case deserves recording.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

TOM BIRD,

Consulting Anæsthetist to Guy's Hospital.

Brook-street, W., May 23rd, 1905.

GALL-STONES AND CANCER.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—The late Dr. G. R. Slade, in a paper entitled "Gall-stones and Cancer," and published shortly before his death in THE LANCET of April 22nd, 1905, quoted cases to show that many of the thickened gall-bladders found in association with gall-stones are carcinomatous. The first thickened gall-bladder which I had an opportunity of examining after having read Dr. Slade's interesting paper proved to be carcinomatous. The patient was admitted into this hospital under the care of Mr. Stanley Boyd, to whom I am indebted for permission to record the case. The case is that of a woman, aged 40 years, who had had symptoms suggesting the presence of gall-stones for 12 months. She had lost flesh considerably since her arrival in England from abroad but she states that her visits to England have always been accompanied by loss of weight. At the operation two gall-stones were found impacted in the neck of the gall-bladder which was kinked. The gall-bladder was removed, not because it was thought to be carcinomatous but because cholecystectomy was considered

to be the most satisfactory method of dealing with the case. The gall-bladder was uniformly thickened to a moderate degree. The liver showed no sign of secondary growths. Microscopical examination of the wall of the gall-bladder revealed the presence of columnar-celled carcinoma.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

H. A. T. FAIRBANK,

Charing Cross Hospital, May 31st, 1905.

Surgical Registrar.

CANCER BODIES AND REPRODUCTIVE TISSUES.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—May I draw the attention of Professor J. B. Farmer and his colleagues to the fact that in my Erasmus Wilson lectures on the General Pathology of Tumours¹ I drew attention to the close resemblance between cancer bodies and the archoplasmic structures found in the spermatocytes of the guinea-pig and at the lectures I showed lantern slides in illustration of this resemblance. My attention was drawn to this subject by the paper by Borrel.² I did not publish my observations in more detail at the time because I was hoping to continue my researches on the cytology of tumours and publish them when they were more complete. Unfortunately, I left Leeds soon after I delivered the lectures and have not had time since then to continue my work on the subject.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

CHARLES POWELL WHITE.

St. Thomas's Hospital, S.E., May 27th, 1905.

VISIT OF BRITISH PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS TO PARIS.

(FROM ONE OF OUR SPECIAL COMMISSIONERS)

PRIVATE HOSPITALITY.—THE BRITISH LADIES.—LUNCH TO THE MEDICAL PRESS.

A FEW words yet remain that should be added to the lengthy description already published in THE LANCET of the great reception given in Paris to the British physicians and surgeons. Without attempting to notice the whole series of private receptions held by French medical men in their own homes, it is necessary that fuller mention should be made of the hospitality by the president and the vice-president of the reception committee. The former, Professor Bouchard, being anxious to invite everybody concerned, was compelled to hire a large hall near the Champs-Élysées known as the Salle Washington. Then, as there were many dinner parties on the same evening—namely, May 11th—the reception did not commence until after 10 o'clock. The "*tout Paris*" of medicine was there as was nearly every British guest. The big hall was very crowded by animated, interested, and interesting guests. On the same evening Dr. Lucas-Championnière, the vice-president, had entertained to dinner at his private residence Sir William and Lady Broadbent and a number of other British visitors. On the following day he gave another dinner. The British visitors had thus an opportunity of seeing something of the domestic life and household management which in Paris differs considerably from English customs. But, above all, they had an insight into the artistic refinements of that life which, combined with the presence of unfailing amiability, and the absence of any sort of affectation or stiffness, make Parisian society exceptionally attractive.

In this respect we have been especially requested by several British ladies who accompanied their husbands on this ever-memorable visit to say a few words on their behalf. They are desirous to make known how deeply touched they have been by the extraordinary attention and kindness bestowed upon them by the French ladies. This was not a question merely of parties, dinners, and entertainments, but of daily and indeed hourly watchfulness and friendship; of advice and help or guidance constantly given, however petty the detail or the incident by which it was evoked. It was not so much the brilliant entertainment as the sisterly welcome which the British ladies found awaiting them that has produced so deep an impression and evoked lasting gratitude. The British ladies were never allowed

¹ THE LANCET, Feb. 15th (p. 423) and 22nd (p. 491), 1902.

² Annales de l'Institut Pasteur, February, 1901.