

meningitis, and from the first he had very active, long delirium. This case was followed by 6 other cases of typhoid fever, 25 mild cases of dysentery, and 28 cases of malarial fever. There was also an average of from twenty-five to thirty general minor ailments per diem, and, with the exception of six cases of typhoid fever, which were through their third week, one case of malaria, and one convalescent from typhoid fever, all were well when we arrived at Plymouth. These eight cases were transferred to the hospital ship at Plymouth. My general opinion of the men was that they were fine specimens of the nationality to which they belong and that the officers were a real good set of fellows.

I remain, Sirs, yours very truly,

FRED. G. LLOYD,

Surgeon to the *Harlech Castle*: Surgeon in Charge of
Dr. Jameson's men from Natal to Plymouth.

Feb. 25th, 1896.

"THE PROPER TEMPERATURE FOR VAGINAL INJECTIONS."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—With reference to the case reported in the *Leeds Evening Express*, upon which you commented in THE LANCET of Feb. 15th under the above heading, I anticipate that you will be willing to permit me, through your journal, to thank those members of my profession—nearly fifty in number—who have kindly defrayed my entire expenses in the matter. It would give me much pleasure were I at liberty to publish the names of those who have thus helped me, but you will see that the list which I now forward for your perusal includes most of the best known practitioners both in the centre and outlying districts of Leeds, and as to most of them I myself am entirely unknown I am led to regard their action as due to a feeling that I have been mulcted in damages contrary to the weight of evidence for the results of an accident (which none regret more than myself) which occurred in consequence of a correct line of treatment necessarily under the circumstances carried out hurriedly in a moment of supreme danger. I trust my unfortunate experience may be of service to others, but would regret were it to have the effect of deterring any medical man from doing his utmost to save a life in imminent danger for fear of consequences, however unpleasant to himself.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Armley, Feb. 19th, 1896.

JAMES LAMONT.

"POINTS UNDER THE INFECTIOUS DISEASES (NOTIFICATION) ACT."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Dr. Leonard Cane's letter to, and his answer from, the Local Government Board opens up a very interesting question. Here (in Leicester) we are expected to notify each and every case of infectious disease which occurs in a house, but are only paid for the first one notified. The assistant secretary to the Local Government Board distinctly says that "the town council must pay the prescribed fee for each certificate, whether or not it relates to a person belonging to a family in which the presence of infectious disease has already been notified." It would be interesting to know why we Leicester practitioners are not thus paid. An elucidation of this question would be welcomed by all of us, including,

Yours faithfully,

Leicester, Feb. 22nd, 1896.

W. L'HEUREUX BLENKARNE.

* * The Leicester system of compulsory notification is carried out, not under the general Act, but under the Leicester Corporation Act, 1879. That Act contains the following provision, Section 8 (5): "The corporation shall pay to every medical practitioner who shall, in pursuance of this section, duly make and give any such certificate or declaration a fee of 2s. 6d. for each such certificate or declaration, but only one such certificate need be given and only one such fee shall be payable within an interval of thirty days to the same medical practitioner for certificates given by him in respect of the same disease occurring in the same building." This system was studiously avoided in the general Act of 1889, and it has many obvious disadvantages. Thus, no trustworthy statistics of infectious sickness can be

obtained and no rate of fatality to attacks can be ascertained.—ED. L.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Would you kindly inform me through the columns of THE LANCET if the urban district council are justified in the following actions? I notified fifty-five cases at the end of last year charging half a crown as usual, and which previously has always been paid; without any notice I am sent a cheque for £3 11s. 6d., with the information that in future the council will only pay a shilling for cases other than private. I am medical officer to a society for the miners employed by a company here, and which is only for their working men. Would you kindly inform me if this is a legal act and is what is meant by the Notification Act of 1889, which speaks of public bodies and institutions?

I am, Sirs, yours truly,

J. W. HUDSON, L.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. Edin., L.S.A.

Millom, Carnforth, Feb. 18th, 1896.

* * We are of opinion that the urban district council are altogether in error. The question has been discussed before and it has been decided that whilst "public body or institution" includes a public hospital or infirmary, that expression does not include private hospitals to which patients are admitted for payment, or a medical club, or a dispensary. In the case submitted the medical attendance on a miners' society is carried out by a private medical practitioner. We should advise, in the first instance, that a detailed statement of the circumstances be submitted to the Local Government Board and that their opinion be asked.—ED. L.

NUTROA FOOD.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—My attention has been called to an advertisement in pamphlet form of a food called "Nutroa" which is stated to have the same composition as my "ideal diet for children." I wish to state (1) That the use of my name in these advertisements is without my sanction; (2) that the expression "ideal diet for children" has never been used by me in any of my writings; and (3) that the figures quoted are taken from my work on Chemical Physiology, which gives the average minimum diet (a very different thing from ideal diet) for persons of different ages. The figures selected by the advertisers are those for children between the ages of six and fifteen; the entirely different figures given on the same page for infants under the age of one year and a half are ignored. Nutroa food is advertised as a substitute for human milk, and therefore presumably intended for those under eighteen months of age. I may state in conclusion that since seeing the advertisement I have examined a sample of this food, and that I do not consider it in any sense a substitute for human milk.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

King's College, Feb. 21st, 1896.

W. D. HALLIBURTON.

"THE EAST LONDON WATER INQUIRY."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—With reference to your annotation upon the subject of the report of the inspectors of the Local Government Board as to the service of the East London Waterworks Company, may I be allowed to point out the drawbacks of a branch service pipe as recommended by you? The inspectors very properly advocate the provision of properly designed domestic storage cisterns, and you maintain "that for the exclusive purpose of a drinking supply water direct from the main should, when possible, be drawn. This does not mean the abolition of cisterns, or of some means of domestic storage, for the service-pipe may be made to branch into two, the one to feed the cistern and the other to supply directly to the tap." If this arrangement be adopted the consumer would naturally utilise the direct tap with the result that the water in the cistern might be undisturbed for months. Should a breakdown of the constant service impel a resort to the water in the cistern the consumer would have at his disposal water dangerously stale and stagnant. If a cistern is properly designed, and in principle is but an enlargement of the