

Catherine Bianchi and Miss Annie Crofts Doubleday, and his two nephews, both named Edward Doubleday.

The following legacies have recently been left to hospitals and other medical charities :—Mr. Antonio Alexander Ralli, of 102, Westbourne-terrace, Hyde-park, and of 9, Gracechurch-street, £250 each to the Hospital of the Island of Scio, and the special hospital for the leprosy in the same island.—Mr. David Berlandina, formerly of 80, Old Broad-street, merchant, but late of Villa Abbo, Rue Cotta, Grimaldi, Nice, twelve guineas each to the Hospital for Spanish and Portuguese Jews, Mile-end-road, and the London Hospital, Devonshire-square. Mr. Henry Howell, of Old-street, 100 guineas to the Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, City-road.

Correspondence.

"Andi alteram partem."

THE ASSOCIATION OF FELLOWS OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—It appears from the resolution passed at the meeting of Fellows, held at Worcester on the 10th inst., that the annual meeting of the Association of Fellows is to "be held at and during the annual meeting of the British Medical Association." This implies that the Association of Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, like the New Sydenham Society, will become an appanage of the British Medical Association. As there are many Fellows of the College who deliberately stand aloof from the British Medical Association, and will continue to do so, unless the management be effectually reformed, the meetings of the Fellows' Association cannot be truly representative.

While I heartily approve of the formation of an Association of Fellows, I maintain that London is the most convenient place in which to hold its annual meetings, and the beginning of July the fittest time, when the Council elections take place. This arrangement possesses the further advantage that provincial Fellows would have an additional inducement to come to the metropolis to record their votes, thereby quickening their interest in the affairs of the College.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

Harley-street, Aug. 21st, 1882.

JOHN TWEEDY.

WHAT HINDERS NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In replying to Dr. Jones's letter in THE LANCET of August 19th I distinctly state that I did not attack him through his official position, and therefore wish to avoid any personality or insinuation, my reason for writing to you being to show one unfortunate feature in the working of the Compulsory Notification of Infectious Diseases Act. June 20th was the first day that I or any of my colleagues became aware that the Blackpool Corporation would supply carbolic oil gratuitously when required. Neither were we aware that the medical attendant was expected to state the time for the cleansing and disinfecting of houses to the sanitary authority, knowing that we had no authority, and considering this an important part of the duties of the medical officer of health. I was once just in time to prevent a sanitary servant from burning sulphur in a house three days after the commencement of a case of measles complicated by pneumonia.

Isolation by accommodation in the sanatorium infers payment varying from half a guinea to a guinea per week for each person (patient or nurse) from the party responsible to the Corporation. But in this case the responsible party preferred nursing the child at home, where the isolation would have been nearly as complete; for I forbade anyone to be admitted into the house, and was "only glad to escape odium" by advising the father to continue to ply for hire, but live away from, and not come into, his own house. The wife told me that the inspector said that her husband might please himself whether he drove on the 18th or not,

but that she said *that* would not satisfy her, and he then gave his consent to the man driving again.

Regarding "a pure invention of somebody's," it is immaterial, so far as the principle is involved, whether a prescription, a written or a verbal order was given to the patient's mother for the carbolic oil. It actually was, I find, a verbal order; but I was misled by the inspector bringing me the prescription from the chemist, but was particularly careful to place in my last letter the words, "For scarlet fever patients only," to show that the prescription was a general one.

Regarding "MacDonald's just cause of complaint against me," I had to decide between his word and that of the mother, supported by her sister, &c., who could not have any motive for saying what was not true; and I still believe what they said and signed.

I agree that the Legislature would act wisely to insist that a medical officer of health should not be allowed to practise, but have a district large enough to provide sufficient work, sufficient pay, and security that he will not be thrown out of office because of personal spite or jealousy. Such legislation, if the Compulsory Notification Act ever becomes general, will prevent a vast amount of unpleasantness, misunderstanding, and unfairness such as we fancy we have experienced in Blackpool; and the Act will not have the hearty co-operation of general practitioners unless they be taken into confidence, and the householder be as liable to a heavy fine as they themselves for not reporting infectious disease existing in his or her house.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

Blackpool, Aug. 21st, 1882.

WM. B. RICHARDSON.

"SCURVY."

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—*A propos* the annotation appearing under the above heading in THE LANCET of June 24th, pp. 1048-9, I would beg permission to observe that almost every medical man in India will be able to endorse the views of Dr. Moore, to which you refer. Medical officers of native regiments notice almost daily in their hospital practice that—to use your writer's words—"insufficient diet will cause scurvy even if fresh vegetable material forms a part of the diet, though more rapidly if it is withheld." Indeed, so far as my humble experience as a regimental surgeon from observations on the same men goes, I am inclined to think that the meat-eating classes of our Sepoys—to wit, the Mahomedans, especially those from the Punjaub—are comparatively seldom seen with the scorbutic taint; while, on the contrary, the subjects are, in the main, vegetable feeders who are their non-meat-eating comrades, the Hindus (Parboos from the North-West Provinces and Deccan Mahrattas), especially those whose daily food is barely sufficient either in quality or quantity. A sceptic may refuse to accept this view on the ostensible reason that though the food of the meat-eating classes be such, it may, perchance, contain vegetable ingredients as well as meat. To this I would submit the rejoinder that as a matter of fact, quite apart from all theory and hypothesis, the food of these meat-eating classes does not always contain much, or any, vegetables. In the case of the semi-savage hill tribes of Afghanistan and Baluchistan, their food contains a large amount of meat (mutton), and is altogether devoid of vegetables. The singular immunity from scurvy of these races has struck me as a remarkable physiological circumstance, which should make us pause before accepting the vegetable doctrine in relation to scurvy *et hoc genus omne*. Those of our medical brethren who have had opportunities of observation in those dismal and dreary wilds will agree with me when I say that there are other causes at work which go a long way to produce this diathesis, certainly quite irrespective of the question of the absence or insufficiency of the vegetable element in the food. Pressure on my time, and perhaps also the space in your columns, will not permit of my entering here at length into this important physiological question; but suffice it to remark in brief that these are:—

1. Monotony or sameness of the diet and manner of cooking and preparing it, without much change, or, indeed, any change whatsoever, as was the case with the "field ration" issued to the troops there. The Europeans got potato as the (sole) vegetable, sometimes bad, while the