

nurse her hostess. After 10 days this lady (the mother) felt so ill that she returned home and went straight to bed, carefully avoiding her children; and next day it was clear that she was beginning measles. The children, meanwhile, had been threatening the troublesome cough that might precede measles, but not until the fifteenth and seventeenth day after their exposure did they show manifest signs of measles. Now, it would seem that the extra dose received by the mother distinctly led to a shorter length of the incubation stage. Again in August and in the early days of September I was using lymph of the Jenner Institute (*not* the Jenner Institute of Preventive Medicine) which failed to take at all. Later, in the month of October, I found that the vaccine would take effect in a mild sort of way on the twelfth day, showing that there probably was but a very mild dose of the vaccine virus in the glycerine. I had always been able to prophesy that in revaccination one could look with certainty for the local reaction on the third or fifth day (at least this always happened when I used lymph from Dr. Renner's establishment). So I took to using Dr. Renner's lymph again and always find that I can guarantee a good pock-mark or an abortive one equally surely about from the third to the fifth day, showing, I suppose, that the dose is fairly equal.

These facts would seem to prove that if lymph is over-glycerinated it is either inert or very slow in incubation, all which would show that there might be some standard of strength established by the authority of those who make lymph for the Government. For we non-public vaccinators are entirely dependent on the private companies who advertise their goods. They, on the other hand, deny all responsibility for the uncertainty of their lymph. I have lately revaccinated and caused to be revaccinated many who were done with Jenner lymph and find that 30 per cent. when done again with Dr. Renner's lymph give excellent vaccine vesicles. This shows how our unfortunate patients are entirely at the mercy of the trade supply in lymph.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Courtfield-road, S.W., Jan. 21st, 1902. J. KINGSTON BARTON.

EXCISION OF GASTRIC ULCER.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I notice that in THE LANCET of Jan. 25th, p. 275, you refer a correspondent signing himself "E. N. B." to a case of mine recorded in your issue of March 2nd, 1895, p. 544. As that case occurred early in the history of operation for perforated gastric ulcer and was my first experience of operating for it, will you allow me to say that in four or five subsequent cases (one of which was published in 1896) I have not thought it advisable to excise the ulcer before suturing? I think that perhaps your correspondent may find the information he seeks in the excellent lectures by Mr. A. W. Mayo Robson published in THE LANCET of March 10th (p. 671), 17th (p. 747), and 24th (p. 830), 1900, and in an address by Mr. Robson in THE LANCET of Feb. 9th, 1901, p. 375.

I am, Sirs, your obedient servant,

Brighton, Jan. 25th, 1902.

R. F. JOWERS.

FIRST AID FOR PRIMARY HÆMORRHAGE: THE WRONG INSTRUCTION GIVEN TO AMBULANCE CLASSES. A CORRECTION.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In my letter which appears in THE LANCET of Jan. 25th, p. 256, the words "severely burnt" have been omitted from the account of the infant who was carried over two miles to a hospital.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Plymouth, Jan. 25th, 1902.

C. HAMILTON WHITEFORD.

FEEDING ON GOAT'S MILK.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—If any of your readers have had experience of the suckling of children by goats I should be greatly obliged if they would let me benefit thereby. The child who has come under my care quite recently is four months old, and has been suckled since birth by a goat, taking at present four

meals daily from the goat and two from the mother. The child is large, firm-fleshed, mottled, but has a scurfy patch covering the lower part of the forehead, the nose, and the left cheek. There is no irritability, flatulence, vomiting, or loss of weight. There has been a little diarrhoea which passed off without treatment; curds are frequently passed in the stools. There is no loss of weight. The udders of the goat are well cleaned before each meal and the animal is healthy.

Would it be wiser to advise a change in the method of feeding than to leave well alone?

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Albareda 49, Seville, Jan. 21st, 1902.

JOHN DALEBROOK.

HIGH FREQUENCY CURRENTS IN THE TREATMENT OF PHTHISIS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I trust that you will afford brief space for an indignant repudiation of certain sensational statements concerning the treatment of phthisis by currents of high frequency which have appeared in the columns of the daily press, and in which my name has been used to my great annoyance and entirely without my knowledge or consent.

On Jan. 23rd, as a matter of courtesy, I saw a representative of the *Daily Mail*, who called on me with an introduction from a well-known member of our profession, a personal friend, for the alleged purpose of reporting on the subject which had been dealt with in the Gresham lectures. I explained to him impersonally the *modus operandi* of the electrical treatment in question, allowing him to test for himself the physical properties of the current from an ordinary Oudin resonator which stands in my room without any adjuncts of elaborate finish, mystery, or impressiveness, and is indeed in all its surroundings eloquent of makeshift arrangements and purely experimental use. I pointed out that I personally was interested in the matter from a purely scientific point of view, and had had an extremely short and small acquaintance with its alleged therapeutic effects.

Before consenting to afford him any information I had obtained his assurance that my name should not be used at all in connexion with the matter, so that its use in the published paragraph is entirely unjustifiable and a grave breach of confidence.

I have written a letter to the *Daily Mail* pointing out my extreme annoyance, and I feel confident that those who know me and my work will at once see how I have been made an unsuspecting victim to the peculiar "principles" of modern sensational journalism.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Devonshire-street, W., Jan. 28th, 1902.

T. J. BOKENHAM.

THE ROYAL UNITED HOSPITAL, BATH.—Mr. Arthur Roberts, the comedian, who was performing at the Theatre Royal, Bath, gave an entertainment at the Royal United Hospital, Bath, on Jan. 24th. Mr. Roberts was assisted by several members of his company and the performance was much appreciated by the patients.

THE ROYAL INSTITUTION.—The Friday evening discourse at the Royal Institution on Jan. 24th was delivered by Mr. H. G. Wells, the title of his address being "The Discovery of the Future." He thought that along certain lines and with certain limitations it was quite possible to forecast the future and that the time for commencing investigations in this direction had, in fact, now arrived. In support of his arguments he referred to the calculation of planetary movements many years in advance of the actual occurrences, to the predictions of chemists as to the properties of bodies which were unknown at the time but have since been discovered, to the results of medical prognosis, and to the anticipations of palæontologists at first founded on scanty data but afterwards verified when more abundant fossil remains came to light. The human race as at present existing was not, he said, the last stage in the evolution of the highest form of animal life, and speculation as to what type of creature would succeed man on the earth was exceedingly interesting. He believed that within the next few hundred years the human mind would undergo great development and would accomplish things compared with which all its achievements in the past would be only as the dawn before the day.