

thing will be done to protect the health and lives of the lead-workers without in any way injuring the trade of the district. Dr. Shadwell would have been somewhere near the mark if he had said that the Home Office was between the two of us, the manufacturers saying that the proposed new rules are too stringent, while we (the workpeople) say that many of the rules are not stringent enough. Perhaps the best way of putting the case is to describe it as a three-cornered contest, in many portions of which the views of the operatives are directly antagonistic to the amendments of manufacturers. I am, Sirs, yours very sincerely,

N. PARKES,

General Secretary, Printers' and Transferrers' Trade Protection Society.

Burslem, Staffs, Oct. 29th, 1901.

EFFICIENT REVACCINATION.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Nothing will do so much harm to the credit of vaccination as the employment of inert or very feeble lymph. Complaints as to the quality of the lymph which ordinary practitioners are now able to get are very general, and it is not easy to see why the organisation of the Government supply of vaccine lymph should not be enlarged so to meet the demands of all practitioners, but till this is done other methods of improving the supply of trustworthy lymph may be considered. I venture to suggest two such methods. 1. The British Medical Association might employ inspectors of the commercial vaccine lymph manufactories. These inspectors should, of course, be familiar with the best methods employed in the Government laboratories here and in Germany and they should pay frequent and surprise visits to the manufactories and report at short intervals in the medical papers for the guidance of practitioners in need of lymph, grading the manufactories according to the excellence of the methods employed. 2. Reports as to the actual value of the various commercial lymphs as tested by experience might be published once a month in the medical papers, the name of the firm that supplied the lymph being given with each report. If a large number of general practitioners would take the trouble to send to THE LANCET and to the *British Medical Journal* month by month a record of all their vaccinations and revaccinations, mentioning for each case the source of the lymph used and the number of vesicles produced, the inducement to sell only active lymph would be materially increased. If Germany can efficiently revaccinate a population of 55,000,000 it ought not to be impossible to produce in England enough active lymph for our much smaller numbers.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,
E. GARRETT ANDERSON.

Upper Berkeley street, W., Nov. 2nd, 1901.

GUY'S WILL.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Reference to a copy of the first edition (1725) of Guy's will in my possession shows that the statement in the extract from the "Dictionary of National Biography" which appears in THE LANCET of Nov. 2nd, p. 1208, is slightly inaccurate; the four, six, or eight persons to be apprenticed or nursed ("or such like charitable deed") were "of the family of the Voughtons or Woods or proceeding therefrom." "Two or more such poor persons of the family of the Guys or proceeding therefrom" were to be similarly benefited. The Voughtons were Guy's cousins. The relationship to the testator of the Guys benefited under the will is not stated, but they received a smaller legacy than many of the other beneficiaries—viz., "Five Hundred Pounds a-piece." They were "Margaret Guy and Samuel Guy, the children of Samuel Guy, late of Egham in the county of Surrey."

My copy of the will contains a number of interesting manuscript notes, amongst them a statement that notices of Mr. Guy are to be found in "British Chronologist" (1789) under the year 1724, vol. ii., p. 94, and in Hughson's "London," vol. i., pp. 118, 119, and vol. iv., pp. 461, 462; also an alphabetical list in manuscript, dated Feb. 17th, 1744-5, of the "First and Present Presidents and Governors of Guy's Hospital." A marginal note, which bears evidence of having been written by a former owner of the book in 1835, states that the will is "now in prerog. office." I suppose this means the office of the Prerogative Court of

Canterbury. Is the original will now at Somerset House, or where? I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

HERBERT R. SPENCER, M.D. Lond.

Harley-street, W., Nov. 2nd.

RE SPASTIC PARAPLEGIA AND RETINITIS PIGMENTOSA: A CORRECTION.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—With reference to the account of the proceedings of the Society for the Study of Disease in Children in THE LANCET of Nov. 2nd, p. 1200, the report of my remarks is misleading and may give rise to confusion. De Amicis (of Naples),¹ in a paper on the Relationship of Spastic Paraplegia (Little's disease) with Syphilis, gives the details of a case of spastic paraplegia in a boy, aged three years, whose father and mother had undoubtedly suffered from syphilis. I did not say that in de Amicis's case there was retinitis pigmentosa. I referred to it as in favour of the syphilitic origin of the case of spastic paraplegia with retinitis pigmentosa shown for Dr. Garrod, in which the eye condition was considered to be suggestive of syphilis.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

GEORGE PERNET.

Upper Gloucester-place, N.W., Nov. 2nd, 1901.

ACUTE DILATATION OF THE STOMACH.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—The letter of Dr. William Ewart in THE LANCET of Nov. 2nd, p. 1228, upon acute dilatation of the stomach has suggested another reference to the cases mentioned by me. It was not until I had left the post-mortem room, after examination of the more recent case, that I remembered having read of the theory that obstruction of the duodenum may be occasioned by pressure from the superior mesenteric artery, and the possibility of such a cause for the dilatation was, unfortunately, not definitely excluded. The duodenum was, however, less distended in the third part than in the first and second portions, and the jejunum, although not abnormally distended, was certainly not collapsed. In the other case mentioned in my letter it was also the first part of the duodenum which was most markedly distended.

The theory to which Dr. Ewart has drawn attention is interesting, but it is difficult to believe that so simple a form of obstruction can lead to a distension of the stomach which may bring the greater curvature as low as the pubes. Theories which attribute morbid conditions of the digestive tract to the influence of the nervous system are perhaps vague, but it is not easy to account for some of these conditions unless one believes that the nervous system has played some part in the causation. For example, I have seen in two instances extensive hæmorrhage into the coats of the small and large intestine extending without a break from the junction of the duodenum and the jejunum to the hepatic flexure of the colon. The fact that the transverse colon was unaffected showed that the whole of the area of the distribution of the superior mesenteric artery had not been involved in the hæmorrhage, and careful examination of the superior mesenteric artery and vein, together with their branches, revealed no trace of either embolus or thrombosis. The precisely similar distribution of the hæmorrhage in these two cases—a distribution which did not closely follow the area of supply of a blood-vessel—suggested that the nervous system had played some part in the causation of the bleeding. It also suggested that the jejunum and ileum possess an innervation which is presided over by centres which govern also the innervation of the cæcum and ascending colon. If this be true then the stomach and duodenum may also possess an innervation common to both, disturbance of which, while not primarily responsible for some morbid condition of these viscera, may occasionally determine its nature. In the two cases of acute dilatation of the stomach and duodenum mentioned by me the primary cause of the dilatation appears to have been the septicæmia which was present.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Clifton, Bristol, Nov. 2nd, 1901.

THEODORE FISHER.

¹ Archiv für Dermatologie und Syphilis, 1898, with bibliography.