

THE METROPOLITAN HOSPITAL FUND.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Will you permit me, as president and treasurer of the Hospital Sunday Fund, to ask your kindly assistance in reminding the public that on Sunday next, being Hospital Sunday, collections will be made in the churches and chapels of London in aid of our hospitals and dispensaries.

Hospital Sunday is the one day in the whole year when men, women, and children alike, of all creeds and denominations, have the privilege and opportunity of helping the sick poor in their midst. This year the Council have 116 hospitals seeking relief from the Fund, 18 of which are hospitals for convalescents. There are also no fewer than 51 dispensaries applying for awards. To cover the pressing needs of all these institutions in respect of their last year's work a sum of £100,000 is still urgently required.

In our London hospitals and medical charities we have persons of every nationality, and I venture to think that the thousands of foreigners in London, who are here reaping the benefit of our great and liberal Constitution, will know how on this day to express their appreciation of, and gratitude for, the blessings they are here enjoying.

I am especially anxious now, on the eve of these annual collections, to ask everyone in our great City and its suburbs to make a determined effort to increase the amount of the Fund this year to £50,000. This would be a practical way of recognising the debt of gratitude we all owe to these charitable institutions, and an effectual means by which the people of London could give expression to their sympathy for the sick and suffering poor around them. Like my predecessors, I shall be glad to receive at the Mansion House the contributions of any who may be absent from London on Hospital Sunday, or who may otherwise be prevented from attending a place of worship and contributing to the Fund through the offertory. Commending this appeal to the liberality and generosity of the inhabitants of the metropolis,

I am, Sirs, your obedient servant,
Mansion House, June 7th, 1888. P. DE KEYSER, Lord Mayor.

ARTIFICIAL GLYCOSURIA.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—That glycosuria can be, as pointed out by Mr. F. W. Burton in your issue of June 2nd, so readily developed by salicylic acid in the human subject is of considerable interest from various points of view. Among others, it has an important bearing as to the part played by the nervous system in rheumatic fever. In this disorder a patient is placed fully under the influence of the salicylates, toxic symptoms are developed, such as deafness, singing in the ears, &c., the temperature then declines, the rheumatic pains are relieved, and, simultaneously with the development of these toxic symptoms, sugar appears in the urine. By a curious transposition of a semicolon in Mr. Burton's paper, he is made to say that glycosuria is present *before* deafness &c. appear; but this is not the case, and the point is important. The sentence in his letter should run as follows:—"This glycosuria is, however, only present when the patient shows the nervous toxic symptoms of salicylism; and before deafness, singing in the ears, &c., appear, though perchloride of iron shows the presence of salicyluric acid in the urine, I have not found any sugar." Mr. Burton is still investigating the subject, and I hope that more light may be thrown on the pathology of diabetes and rheumatism by his observations.—I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Cambridge, June 4th, 1888.

P. W. LATHAM.

RHEUMATIC PNEUMONIA.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In February last I attended a case similar to those described by Dr. Cheadle in his interesting clinical lecture published in THE LANCET of the 5th inst. The salient points of the case are as follows. The patient was a strong healthy girl of eighteen; no history of previous rheumatism. As a result of severe exposure she developed acute rheumatism with pronounced arthritis and a steady temperature of 103° F. In a few days pericardial friction was observed, and shortly after evidence of effusion; the

breathing became rapid, 40 per minute; and there was a frequent short dry cough. Her lungs were examined daily, but no abnormal physical signs were discovered until the fifth day after the commencement of the pericarditis, when I found an area of dulness just below the angle of the left scapula; in this area the breathing was tubular, without accompaniments, and the vocal resonance increased; there was no rusty sputum, nor did the temperature become further elevated. Until this time the patient had been taking salicin, but quinine was now substituted for it, and under this treatment she gradually improved, being convalescent within a month after the commencement of the disease. The occurrence of the pneumonic consolidation did not appear to produce any effect upon the course of the malady.

These cases seem to be widely separated from an ordinary exudative pneumonia. 1. They seem to have been invariably preceded by pericarditis. 2. The lower lobe of the left lung was affected in each case. 3. There was no rusty sputum and no cough, except in my case; crepitation was absent or comparatively slight in amount. 4. There was very little or no influence on the temperature and course of the disease. The consolidation seems to be passive in its nature and I am inclined to believe it to be due to pressure of an enlarged pericardium, probably containing fluid, upon the pulmonary tissue behind it, this effect being increased by the sluggish circulation and lessened vitality of the lung, and the constant recumbency of the patient. I have observed a similar occurrence in the case of a heart greatly hypertrophied as a result of aortic disease. I may add that in my case there was no old cardiac lesion; a mitral murmur was heard during the time the pneumonia was present, but it disappeared when convalescence was established.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Abergavenny, May 10th, 1888. LEO D. GAMBLE, M.B., C.M.

REMOVAL OF DISEASED OVARIES.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Kindly allow me a little space in explanation of an opinion attributed to me by Dr. Bedford Fenwick in his valuable memoir on "Cardiac Degeneration from the Pressure of Abdominal Tumours" in THE LANCET of June 2nd. He quotes me as saying, "Ovariectomy should not be performed while the tumour is small, nor until the constitution has undergone some degree of impairment." That was written long ago. For years past I have advocated and practised early operation. As a general rule, the sooner a diseased ovary is recognised and removed the better. My conviction of the truth of this rule is strengthened by the great pathological argument so well illustrated by Dr. Fenwick. I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Harley-street, June, 1888.

ROBERT BARNES.

THE DRAINAGE OF MARGATE.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—With reference to the drainage of Margate, to which you referred last week, it may interest you to learn that the inhabitants fully determined last autumn to follow the urgent solicitations of the press and the public. The difference of opinion that exists in the town refers to the action of a certain majority of the Town Council, which has invited Mr. Baldwin Latham to send in plans, without calling upon any other celebrated engineers to compete with him. The burgesses have petitioned the Council from time to time, and have held several mass meetings, urging the Corporation to call in other engineers to compete; but up till now they have been ignored by their representatives. The feeling among the burgesses is practically unanimous, and the movement is strongly supported by all the medical men and the chief inhabitants. It is felt that it would be difficult for the best-intentioned assessors to condemn the plan of a brother engineer of celebrity, but with two or three plans to choose from there could be no hesitation in selecting the most appropriate. It will thus be seen that the inhabitants are earnestly endeavouring to secure the best possible advice, and are making laudable efforts to ensure the selection of the best of the many systems of sewerage in vogue at the present day. I may add that perhaps the most important suggestion in Dr. Page's report of last year has been energetically carried out, and the town will no longer be supplied with questionable