

Beckenham and Penge Medical Society have under consideration the desirability of severing their connexion with the Corporate and Medical Reform Association, and this they will doubtless do at their next general meeting. Meanwhile, I am directed to express to you the deep regret we all feel at the action taken at the meeting with regard to yourself and to assure you of our continued confidence and esteem.

I remain, dear Dr. Glover, yours very truly,
F. ALEX. BARTON, Honorary Secretary.

25, Highbury-place, N., June 8th, 1900

DEAR MR. BARTON,—I am much obliged to you and your society for the expression of your views touching the Cannon-street Hotel meeting and its action towards myself. It is impossible that we should agree on all details of a question so complicated as that of midwives, but I believe the agreement is deeper than is thought, and it will be much promoted by generously construing each other's views of the best way to attain the end we all aim at—the saving of the life of poor lying-in women and securing for all serious midwifery the advantage of medical attendance. Kindly convey to your society my best thanks and believe me,

Yours very truly,
J. G. GLOVER.

F. Alex. Barton, Esq., B.A., L.R.C.P. Lond., &c.

THE TREATMENT OF RECENT SPRAINS AND DISLOCATIONS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I am pleased that such an eminent authority as Mr. W. H. Bennett¹ has corroborated the soundness of the treatment of recent dislocations and sprains which I advocated in THE LANCET in 1898.² For over 10 years I have treated those and similar lesions by massage and movement, both active and passive, and I have never once had cause to regret my actions. My chief reason for writing to you two years ago, as it is now, was to try to influence medical men to treat such lesions in a way that weakness and stiffness could not remain. It is a notorious fact that bonesetters make their living and their widespread reputations by such cases falling into their hands. Since I have treated my cases in the way which I described in THE LANCET two years ago I have never had the annoyance of an irregular practitioner interfering with any of my uncompleted cases.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,
WM. DOIG, M.D. Edin.

Galashiels, N.B., June 9th, 1900.

“ON THE RELATIVE VALUE OF SYMPTOMS OF ACUTE PERITONITIS.”

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I have read Mr. Stanmore Bishop's admirable article on the Relative Value of Symptoms of Acute Peritonitis, published in THE LANCET of June 9th, and should like to endorse almost all that he has written. There are the very widest differences of opinion among practitioners as to the presence or absence of acute peritonitis in cases in which interference is required; and the teaching almost deserves the term which Mr. Stanmore Bishop has applied to it. But I fear even muscular rigidity is not an absolute criterion. It is scarcely more certain than the rest. I have watched throughout a case of acute septic peritonitis which proved fatal within five days in which the abdomen was from first to last perfectly soft, without a trace of muscular rigidity. And if not characteristic muscular rigidity, at least a very close imitation of it is often present in cases of abdominal cramp in which there is no suspicion of inflammation. There is, in fact, no single characteristic symptom of acute peritonitis which is present invariably in all cases alike. All of them are wanting sometimes, and the sooner this fact is recognised the more readily will the diagnosis be made. Muscular rigidity is one of the most constant, but its constancy is not absolute.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,
Wimpole-street, W., June 11th, 1900. C. MANSSELL MOULLIN.

¹ THE LANCET, June 2nd, 1900, p. 1569.

² THE LANCET, Feb. 2nd, 1898, p. 465.

MEAT-SUPPLY OF CARDIFF.—The Cardiff Health Committee on June 1st considered the allegation that inferior meat was sold in the local market. A sub-committee had been appointed to go into the whole question, and after a thorough investigation they agreed with the statements and recommended the appointment of an additional inspector who should be a practical butcher thoroughly conversant with the trade. After a considerable discussion the Health Committee passed a resolution requesting the medical officer of health to draw up a list of the duties necessary to ensure efficient inspection.

THE UNIVERSAL EXHIBITION AT PARIS.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

An Unparalleled Number of Visitors.—Order Reigns.—The Exhibition is Ready.

To have visited the Exhibition when it opened in April, and even during the earlier part of May, and then to return again at the commencement of June is to experience sensations that can be compared with the delightful feeling of freshness and calm that follow after a summer storm. The wagons, carts, railway trucks; the drivers, porters, labourers, masons, and workmen, have disappeared. The hurry and bustle are over. The loud, and sometimes angry, cries of those who were struggling to hasten on the work are now replaced by the satisfied voices, the murmurs of admiration from the vast crowds of spell-bound visitors. The sharp stones that cut the feet, the deep ruts made by heavy carts, the pitfalls, the planks and rafters, the empty packing-cases with their sharp protruding nails, have all been removed and safe, dry, and smooth gravel walks greet us on all sides. To the clouds of white chalk and plaster dust has succeeded the sweet air from numerous beds of beautiful flowers or artistically devised clusters of trees and shrubbery. Here and there large palm trees wave their plume-like branches as if to salute the visitors. The air comes fresh and clear from the well-watered verdure and the loudest noises are those of laughter, exclamations of delight and surprise, or of some strange music from a gipsy band or a group of Orientals, negroes and Arabs, rhythmically beating their tomtoms or giving weird expression on deep-toned flutes to an indefinable melody that recalls the nomadic life of the dwellers of the desert. In a word, the Exhibition is now complete. Here and there may be belated exhibitors whose installations are not yet quite in order, but these are so few, far between, and exceptional that they are but as minute specks on the vast and magnificent picture that invites the admiration of the whole world. The promise made has been fully kept. The Exhibition has been completed earlier in the year than any of the preceding universal exhibitions. Nor have the public been slow to acknowledge this fact. Already the number of admissions has beaten all previous records, for there were more than half a million visitors both on Whit-Sunday and on Whit-Monday; and since then even on the ordinary weekdays the admissions have exceeded 200,000. Indeed, it is anticipated that in the height of the season the crowds will exceed the limits of safety. Consequently all the entrances have been connected by telephone to a central office. Here, hour by hour, messages are received from each gate, additions made, and a record is kept as to the number of people actually within the Exhibition. Should this number exceed a certain fixed maximum then the gates will be closed for a while so as to prevent too great a crush. This is a wise and necessary precaution. Even as matters now stand, those who are not satisfied with merely walking round but want to examine minutely some of the exhibits had better devote the morning to serious study. They will then have elbow-room and better opportunities for talking to the exhibitors and for obtaining information. This doubtless involves lunching within the Exhibition, where the restaurants are naturally a good deal dearer than in the town; but as the admission ticket is sold at a discount and can now be obtained for 6d., it is no great loss to leave the Exhibition for meals and there are numerous cheap restaurants outside. Wealth is more evenly distributed in France, there are not so many large fortunes as in England, therefore the greater part of the catering is done for that very numerous class of thrifty people who know how to live well for a small expenditure. It is a happy country for those who possess a modest competency and the fear of spending too much need not deter such from visiting the Paris Exhibition.

THE PAVILION OF THE TOWN OF PARIS.

The more frequent the visits to the Exhibition and the more careful the examination of the wonders displayed, the more hopeless the task of description becomes. The details are of such absorbing interest and of such widespread importance that the difficulty is to know what to leave out, what to cut down to a few sentences—in fact, to use a Parliamentary idiom, how best to massacre the innocents. Take as an