

beef-tea, which was then administered, together with hot bottles to the feet. In about fifteen minutes consciousness returned, and the patient was able to take some more brandy and beef-tea by the mouth. From that time she slowly gained strength. The amount of blood this woman lost was enormous, but could not be accurately determined because it had deluged the bed. The bleeding had fortunately ceased before my arrival. As she was *in extremis*, I think one may fairly state that ether saved this woman's life.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

F. FOORD CAIGER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.  
St. Thomas's Hospital, August 22nd, 1883.

### "A MISTAKEN DIAGNOSIS."

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Your information with regard to this case is very incorrect, and in justice to myself I must beg you to publish in your next number the following facts:—I never stated that the case was one of poisoning by salicylate of soda. What I did state in my report to the Procurator Fiscal was "that his death had been caused in all probability by some noxious substance, apparently of the narcotico-acrid class of poisons," nor did I state that the powders consisted "wholly of salicylate of soda." I shall probably publish the whole case when I have leisure, so that my professional brethren may judge fairly of it. I am, Sir, yours truly,

Aug. 18th, 1883.

F. OGSTON, Jun., M.D.

\* \* We publish the above letter, and defer further comment until the appearance of Dr. Ogston's pamphlet.—ED. L.

### NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

#### SMALL-POX IN SUNDERLAND.

THE medical officer of health, Mr. A. E. Harris, has lately issued a courteous circular letter to the profession in the borough stating that as seventeen cases of small-pox had come under his own observation of late, and fearing the disease might assume an epidemic form, he appealed to the individual practitioners to supply him with that information as to the existence of the disease which he states they have ever been ready to grant when serious disease threatened the town. There can be no doubt but he will receive a ready response to his inquiry, as apart from the importance of the information he solicits, Mr. A. E. Harris is one of our most popular and painstaking health officers in the North.

#### A HOSPITAL FOR BLYTH.

A bequest for the maintenance of a hospital at Blyth was some time ago made by Mrs. Knight, late of Crofton, near Blyth. By her will she directs that the sum of £6000 is to be paid to the trustees—Dr. Ward, of Blyth, and others—to be by them invested, and the income thereof to be accumulated for the maintenance and support of the sick and lame poor of the district; but she directs that no part of her bequest is to be applied to the erection of a hospital. This difficulty has, however, been got over, for a site has been granted for the hospital in Blyth by Sir M. W. Ridley, Bart., M.P.; he has also given a handsome donation, and with the gifts of others sufficient funds are in hand to proceed with the immediate erection of the hospital, which cannot fail to become a great blessing to the town and neighbourhood, as Blyth is almost the centre of the Northern Ocean coal mining district. The plans show arrangements on the ground floor for dispensary, waiting, consulting, examination rooms, and accident ward, with rooms for keeper, &c., while the upper storey will consist of two large wards, with bath, lavatories, and other house accommodation.

#### THE NEW LIDDELL PROVIDENT DISPENSARY, JARROW.

On Saturday last, the foundation stone of the Liddell Provident Dispensary was laid at Jarrow by Mr. C. M. Palmer, M.P. The building is to be erected as a memorial to the Rev. Canon Liddell, cousin of the Earl of Ravensworth, who was for some years rector, and lately resigned through failing health. The building will be stone-fronted, com-

prising two storeys, and will contain every convenience for carrying on dispensary work on a large scale.

#### MESSRS. ATKINSON AND PHILIPSON'S NEW AMBULANCE.

During the late training here of the Northumberland Hussars, Dr. Heath, the surgeon-major of the regiment, tested a new ambulance waggon constructed for the Newcastle Fever and Small-pox Hospital by Messrs. Atkinson and Philipson of this city. The ambulance, which has been built under the superintendence of Mr. H. E. Armstrong, our medical officer of health, had the approval of all the medical men who have seen it. The appearance of the vehicle is light and fresh, and it has none of that funereal dulness that marks most invalid carriages. The driver's seat is covered in, and there is a seat at the side which may be used as an attendant's. The entrance to the ambulance is obtained through folding doors at the rear, where there is a broad step. On the floor of the vehicle is a grooved tramway made to fit the wheels of one of Mr. William Philipson's patent stretcher couches. This couch is on indiarubber wheels, so that the patient may be easily transported to the ambulance, and it is specially adapted for going up and down stairs. The invalid may be carried in a sitting, reclining, or recumbent position. The material forming the mattress is of galvanised iron. The principle of the couch is quite unique in its way, and much ingenuity has been displayed in its construction. Above this couch is a canvas stretcher on parallel poles suspended from the roof on rubber cushioned hooks. This stretcher has been made in such a way that if the patient is too ill to bear being lifted about it can be placed on the bed and the poles drawn away without disturbing him. It will thus be seen that the patients can be carried at full length, and in addition there is full sitting accommodation for two persons, say two patients, and two attendants. The interior is well ventilated, and a sufficient amount of light passes through embossed glass windows. The vehicle runs with great smoothness. The springs are elastic, and patent indiarubber collars are fitted to the valves to prevent shocks and vibrations.

Newcastle-on-Tyne, Aug. 22nd, 1883.

### SCOTTISH NOTES.

(From our own Correspondent.)

#### DUNDEE ROYAL LUNATIC ASYLUM.

A SPECIAL meeting of the directors of this institution was held a few days ago for the purpose of considering the present embarrassed state of the finances of the Board. From the statement made it appears that a debt of £50,000 was secured over the properties of the old asylum, and that, in addition, there were floating debts unsecured of fully £10,000. The Provost explained the two modes which had been suggested for meeting the difficulty. The first was to promote a land company for the purpose of utilising the properties of the old asylum, and thereby reducing the debt; while the second was to appeal to the generosity of the public to provide funds for paying off the floating debt, and thereby leave the asylum, with only its secured debt, to work out in a gradual way ultimate relief. After a good deal of conversation and discussion, the meeting unanimously approved of an appeal being made to the public.

#### STONEHAVEN AS A HEALTH RESORT.

For a long series of years this important fishing centre, near Aberdeen, has been frequented by invalids and others in considerable numbers during the summer months. A large portion of the town is beautifully situated on high ground, commands a fine sea view, and the houses are so scattered as to admit the freest circulation of air. Nature has indeed bestowed her favours liberally here, but hitherto there has, as is too often the case in seaside resorts in Scotland, been a decided want in local effort to make the town attractive to those who sought health in recreation and in bathing. Some recent improvements have been so much appreciated that the whole district has now been stirred, and the result is a most successful bazaar which was held last week, at which Professor McKendrick of Glasgow gave valuable assistance. The proceeds will be devoted to the formation of a lawn tennis ground, bowling green, skating pond, better accesses to the beach, and generally in making