

ground a few feet before the first line of the crowd. The wounds were consequently all caused by ricochetting bullets and resembled in their horrible character the effects of bursting bombs.

NEW BARRACKS AT NORWICH.

The Secretary of State for War will, on the first Thursday in October, lay the foundation-stone of the new cavalry barracks to be erected at Norwich at a cost of some £200 000. When, on account of sanitary deficiencies, the existing barracks were condemned some time ago a representative committee of the leading citizens purchased 20 acres of ground as a site for new military headquarters.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

INEBRIETY A DISEASE AND THEREFORE TO BE TREATED BY THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Much credit belongs to Dr. J. S. Bolton for emphasising the fact that alcoholism should be regarded as a disease and should be treated by those qualified to treat disease. It is greatly to be regretted that the medical profession have in the past neglected fully to grasp the situation as expressed in these views, for the result has been the springing up of a host of lay, and it may be said quack, "doctors" and their attendant clerical satellites. Good may have come from some of these secret remedies, but the very fact that they are secret and that their benefit, if any, is denied except at exorbitant charges by their so-called "discoverers" and pushers to the masses who need them makes them, to say the least, questionable. It should be recognised that alcoholism can be treated in suitable cases by a medical practitioner whilst the subject of it remains in his home and in his business surroundings and that treatment there has its many advantages. On the other hand, there are numerous instances where for the success of the treatment it is undoubtedly better for the patient, often of the upper classes, quietly to leave home and enter voluntarily a thoroughly well-conducted institution where recognised and satisfactory treatment can be carried out. I may mention but a few advantages. He enters upon new surroundings which produce new trains of thought and relieve the nervous system. He is no longer under the critical eye of relatives or friends who are, perhaps justifiably, suspicious that the treatment will be a failure, but in the midst of others who have already benefited and can therefore encourage. He is under the constant, though not irksome, supervision of a thoroughly competent medical observer. He may have gone from the town into the country and the tonic effect of the pure air is a great aid to his recovery. The treatment can be carried out with great regularity and precision so that he gets all the good that residence at a spa with its routine and restrictions, cheerfully borne, bring about. Further, a very exact record of his case, together with its after-history, can be made and the statistics thus gained may prove of invaluable help in the future treatment of cases. It would seem that the treatment by atropin combined with strychnine is having very distinct and lasting success and it behoves every practitioner to make himself fully acquainted with its details, and if unable to carry out the treatment himself with the patient near him to seek the help of an institution where it is systematically undertaken solely by a qualified medical practitioner.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Harley-street, W., August 18th, 1905. W. MCADAM ECCLES.

ASPIRATION IN DISEASES OF THE EAR AND NOSE.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I am pleased to see in THE LANCET of August 12th (p. 434) an article by Dr R. Sondermann of Dieringhausen on his apparatus for the use of aspiration in diseases of the ear and the nose, of which I am in a position to speak with

strong approval, having made use of it in my practice since reading his original papers in the *Münchener Medizinische Wochenschrift* and the *Archiv für Ohrenheilkunde*; I have also repeatedly recommended it to my *confrères*. I have found it of particular value in relieving headaches due to catarrhal conditions of the sinuses; in point of fact, more than one patient under my care at present is most enthusiastic with regard to the relief afforded by it, one lady in particular insisting that she hardly knows how she could live without it. As regards the ear, it is a very efficient substitute for Siegel's exhausting speculum, and is much less uncomfortable in its application. It can therefore be used for the extraction of discharges from the middle ear, after perforation, whether by paracentesis or otherwise, in cases such as those of acute suppurative otitis media in which the driving out of the secretion by means of inflation through the Eustachian tube involves the risk of infection of the mastoid antrum. Me-srs. Mayer and Meltzer have, at my request, added this instrument to their stock.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Cavendish-square, W., August 17th, 1905. DUNDAS GRANT.

MIDGES.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS—As one who has suffered, and is still suffering, from the effects of midge-bites may I give my experience at an East Coast watering place recently? My wife and two children went to Saltburn a few weeks before I did and spent most of their time on the sands; during all this time none of them were bitten by midges. After I came my wife and I spent a considerable time on the golf links a little inland and whilst in search of lost balls frequently went into hedges, pits with rank thick grass, brambles, &c., at the bottom, and sometimes into a wood which was specially placed to trap a "pulled" drive. A few hours after our first visit to the golf links we were both badly bitten and so were numbers of other golfers. The children escaped entirely through not coming into any of the places mentioned. Midges, I believe, collect under trees, near hedges, and amongst thick rank vegetation in places fairly protected from wind. Avoid such places and you will be free from their annoyance. I tried thickish coatings of ointment but they seemed to bite all the same. As regards remedies I tried hazeline, izal, equal parts of liquor ammoniæ fortior and tinctura opii, strong lead and opium lotion, &c., but nothing eased the irritation so quickly or so thoroughly as menthol dissolved in olive oil in the strength of 1 in 4 (i.e., as much menthol as the oil will take up). May I warn your correspondent against an heroic mode of treatment I adopted because I had known it to ease the irritation of small-pox papules—i.e., the application of pure carbolic acid by means of a fine camel-hair brush just touching each spot with it. I am deeply sorry to this day (more than a fortnight after the application) that I allowed apparent analogy to lead me astray.

I am Sirs, yours faithfully,

MEREDITH YOUNG, M.D. Edin.

Stockport, August 22nd, 1905.

THE SPA TREATMENT OF CIRCULATORY DISORDERS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In an interesting article published in your columns under the above heading the following statement occurs referring to Llangammarch Wells: "Judged from the continental standard of comfort and the provision of amusement and distraction this must be regarded as a health resort *in posse* rather than *in esse*." This statement is calculated to do considerable harm to the interests of this spa and is all the more serious inasmuch as for the past two years no expense has been spared by the proprietors in developing the resources of this establishment on really up-to-date lines. And in this work attention has been equally divided between the social and medical requirements of the visitors. An extensive bathing installation has recently been established at considerable cost in which various kinds of baths can be administered. In the reclining baths, constructed of solid porcelain, both barium and artificial Nauheim baths are given, and in addition douche, needle, shower, and wave baths are provided. There are also facilities for treatment by massage and resistant exercises. Shooting, fishing, and