

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

THE DISCUSSION ON CARDIAC MURMURS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Permit me to correct a misunderstanding of my remarks at the Medical Society of London last Monday. I am reported to have said that I differed from Dr. Gairdner as to the mode of production of the murmur which is pathognomonic of mitral stenosis. I wished to assert, on the other hand, that I entirely agreed with Dr. Gairdner's explanation of the cause of the murmur. My valued friend knows this full well, for I have had the advantage of his co-operation in examining patients manifesting the murmur in my wards in the London Hospital. Our only difference, as I tried to make clear at the Medical Society, is on the point of nomenclature. I object to the term "auricular-systolic" as applied to the murmur, because it seems to define that the systole of the auricle is *alone* the cause of the sound, whereas we are agreed that this may be produced anteriorly to the auricular contraction. I prefer the term "presystolic," because I could connote by this a murmur commencing not with but after the second sound, and occupying the whole or any part of the long pause until the succeeding first sound.

I am, Sirs, yours truly,

A. ERNEST SANSON, M.D.

Harley-street, Cavendish-square, W., Nov. 13th, 1887.

"IS CANCER CONTAGIOUS?"

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In 1864, when practising in Nottinghamshire, I was consulted by a labouring man, in middle life, suffering from extensive epithelioma of the lower lip, which eventually caused his death. He always attributed the cause of his complaint to drinking daily out of the same vessel as his father, who died a year previously from epithelioma of the lip. This, if nothing more than a coincidence, is momentarily interesting.

This is the only instance that has ever come under my notice which would support the theory of cancer being contagious.

I am, Sirs, yours truly,

Manchester, Nov. 12th, 1887.

WALTER WHITEHEAD.

"HEMIPLEGIA DURING THE PUERPERIUM."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—After reading the interesting case by Dr. S. Sloan in THE LANCET of Oct. 1st, I looked over my scribbling note-book, and found the following note, which you may think might interest your readers:—

Mrs. F— was delivered by a nurse. The delivery was natural and easy, notwithstanding that ten days previously she had a row, and, I heard, a stand-up fight with one of her female neighbours. The child dying suddenly on the fourth day brings me on the scene with a coroner's order to report on the probable cause of death, which was from natural causes. There was nothing out of the way to draw my attention to the mother, but three days after I am asked to see her, and find her in a semi-conscious state, her hand to her head complaining of pain, bosom swollen and hard, bowels costive, lochia flowing. Under ordinary treatment these symptoms cleared up; but on my usual visit on the seventh morning, I again find her semi-conscious, her mouth drawn to the right side, her left arm and leg quite paralysed, and no control over either bladder or bowel. Here my note ends, for soon afterwards she was removed to the workhouse, and I know after some months she returned home able to do her household duties. Her previous history is this: Always subject to epileptic fits; this was her second child; no fits either during or after labour; parents never "very clever." In this case you will see the hemiplegic symptoms did not show themselves until the fourteenth day after confinement. As to her heart, I believe that was and is quite healthy.

I am, Sirs, yours truly,

Ashburton, Devon, Nov. 9th, 1887. WILLIAM FRASER, M.B.

SCARLET FEVER; SECOND ATTACK.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—On October 10th I sent a child to the Fever Hospital with scarlatina, well-marked symptoms, sore throat, and scarlet efflorescence on wrists. The patient was returned from the hospital as cured a few days ago, and on Nov. 6th I was called to see the patient, who, I found, was suffering from a second attack, and consequently I had to order the patient to be sent to the hospital a second time, which I should consider rather an unusual occurrence. If you consider it to be so, perhaps you would insert this in your valuable journal.

I am, Sirs, yours truly,

Nov. 8th, 1887.

M.R.C.S.

* * Such cases as the above are undoubtedly rare. In THE LANCET of July 21st, 1883, a somewhat similar case was reported as occurring in the Leeds Fever Hospital, under the care of Dr. Barrs.—ED. L.

THE PROFESSION AS A CALLING v. QUACKERY. THE CORPORATIONS AS GUARDIANS OF PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—It is with wonder that I read from week to week, in your valuable journal, the numbers of men entering the medical profession or commencing their studies, lectures, hospital practice, &c., at the various schools. I ask myself, Have these men well considered what they are doing? Have they sat down and counted the cost of time, study, and pecuniary outlay? If so, for what? I am a general practitioner, with an average income from my practice. I am an M.D. of a university; this gives a status if you have money. I am a surgeon; a "bone-setter" near me gets larger fees and better income. I am an apothecary; a chemist close by visits and prescribes. It may be thought by these young men that the universities, colleges, or examining boards, who derive large incomes from fees &c., will protect their rights, interests, &c. I never heard of their so doing. I therefore say to these men, Think twice before you endeavour to enter the profession for a living, when you can practise with equal success as a quack, without the expenditure of your capital, time, and brains. Such is the advice of one who is looked upon as a well-to-do, successful

REGISTERED PRACTITIONER.

November, 1887.

NORTHERN COUNTIES NOTES.

(From our own Correspondent.)

TYNEMOUTH INFIRMARY.

At a meeting to promote the erection of a hospital for the borough of Tynemouth, and presided over by Mr. H. S. Donkin, M.P., it was mentioned that the project was in a fair way of being realised, but that £1000 were still wanted to complete the erection. The chairman mentioned that a gentleman in the borough had promised him £250 of the amount provided the balance was raised in six months. Before separating the meeting pledged itself to raise the necessary sum within six months.

YOUNG CHILDREN IN A WORKHOUSE.

At a late meeting of the Auckland guardians, co. Durham, the very large number of young children in the workhouse was commented upon. A guardian had counted nineteen children in arms, and thought they should, as guardians, prevent the workhouse being turned into a lying-in hospital.

A SHIELDS BATHER'S RECORD.

Mr. Joseph Pollard, swimming master, South Shields, has completed ten years of sea bathing. With the exception of forty mornings, he has bathed continuously. The actual number of dips for the ten years was 3612, and in walking to and from the seaside for these baths Mr. Pollard has travelled 6772½ miles. The omissions were caused by illness, brought on by Mr. Pollard's attempt to swim from New-