

of the Metropolitan Provident Medical Aid Association, will not relax in their efforts to force Dr. Rentoul's scheme upon the general practitioners, and would therefore suggest to these gentlemen the desirability of their acting in closer concert than hitherto, for the purpose of giving the scheme an organised opposition.

I am, Sirs, faithfully yours,  
Stockwell-road, S.W., Dec. 16th, 1889. R. H. S. CARPENTER.

### PRIMARY TUBERCLE OF THE KIDNEY.

*To the Editors of THE LANCET.*

SIRS,—Mr. J. Knowsley Thornton, in his lectures delivered before the Harveian Society, draws attention to the rarity with which tubercle occurs primarily in one kidney. May I ask you to kindly insert in THE LANCET the following brief notes of a case which came under my notice when resident medical officer at the Bootle Borough Hospital?

In last September, a mother brought her boy, aged about three years, to the out-patient department, complaining that he was unable to pass his urine, and that he appeared to suffer pain in the lower part of the abdomen. No definite history being obtained from the mother, I examined the boy for stone in the bladder, but failed to find any signs of one. About three ounces of normal urine were drawn off. A mild purge was given, and the mother was told to bring the boy again if he were no better. She came two days later, when the child was evidently dying, comatose, and with contracted pupils. The bladder being distended, a catheter was passed, and about ten ounces of urine, containing blood, were drawn off. A hot bath was given, but the child died in a few minutes. At the post-mortem examination the cortex and the medulla of the upper third of the right kidney were found to be infiltrated with miliary tubercles, some of which were becoming caseous. No tubercular matter was found anywhere else in the body, although carefully looked for. The bladder was quite healthy, and did not contain a stone.

I am, Sirs, yours obediently,  
R. ATWOOD BEAVER,  
Assistant Medical Officer, Lancaster County  
Asylum, Rainhill.  
Dec. 17th, 1889.

### SULPHUROUS MEDICATION IN INFLUENZA.

*To the Editors of THE LANCET.*

SIRS,—Doubtless many of your readers remember the useful paper of Mr. Dewar of Kirkcaldy upon "Sulphurous Medication" in ordinary colds. Let me give my personal testimony of its value in influenza. Some years ago, when I had an important engagement for 6.30 P.M., I came home at 5 o'clock to dress. My eyes were then streaming, and I sneezed so violently and so persistently that it was almost impossible to do anything but sneeze. By spraying sulphurous acid into my nose and about the room I was able to keep my appointment with scarcely any inconvenience. Should influenza come upon us, would it not be materially prevented from spreading through a family by the use of the sulphurous spray, which is so destructive to infectious germs? Slightly diluted with water, and with the addition of a little eau de Cologne, it is very agreeable in any sick room.

I am, Sirs, yours truly,  
Finchley-road, Dec. 17th, 1889. R. H. MILSON, M.D.

### DEATH UNDER CHLOROFORM.

*To the Editors of THE LANCET.*

SIRS,—In THE LANCET of Dec. 14th is an annotation under the above title, in which you say: "When half-way through the operation the patient showed signs of dangerous depression, the pupils became widely dilated, and the respiration and heart's action ceased." As the anæsthetist responsible for the case, allow me to say that there were absolutely no "signs of dangerous depression," and that the pupils were not dilated prior to the sudden cessation of breathing. The fact is, everything seemed to be going as satisfactorily as possible without the least sign of either cardiac or respiratory depression, until a deep sighing inspiration and expiration occurred, which were immediately followed by sudden cessation of breathing, extreme pallor of countenance, and then dilatation of pupil. The pulse, which for obvious reasons was not noted at the moment of cessation of breathing, was taken immediately before, and

nothing abnormal detected. Had "signs of dangerous depression" occurred prior to cessation of breathing, every care would have been taken to combat them.

Thanking you in anticipation for allowing me to correct an error, which was, I am sure, quite unintentional,

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,  
HENRY T. RUTHERFOORD.  
Queen Anne-street, Cavendish-square, W., Dec. 16th, 1889.

### BIRMINGHAM.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

*Actions under the Apothecaries Act.*

MENTION was made a short time ago of successful actions in the Police Court against two notorious illegal practitioners; these two defendants on the 17th inst. had paid into court £87 8s. 8d., the amount of the penalties claimed against them by the Apothecaries' Society at the County Court. A number of other cases were down for hearing also, but as some of the witnesses were engaged at the Assizes they were adjourned until Jan. 13th. Another case of some importance was also heard under the same Act, where the defendant, with no legal qualification, was held up as an example of a class of men who open respectable-looking houses, place their names upon a lamp, set up speaking-tubes, and give every appearance outwardly of being qualified men. The poor were thereby deceived, and properly qualified men also deterred from obtaining practice. It was pointed out, also, that inquests often became necessary from the inability to get a certificate of death from an unqualified man, and expense was thereby thrown upon the ratepayers. The full penalty of £20 for one instance was inflicted upon the defendant, and an order for payment forthwith was granted. The effect of these prosecutions will be wholesome and salutary, and will confer a benefit upon the poor as well as on the profession.

*Notification of Infectious Diseases.*

At a meeting of the City Council held on the 17th inst., a resolution was passed, after some discussion, to adopt the Infectious Diseases Act 1889 (Notification), as and from January 20th, 1890. An amendment was accepted with it as follows: "And that the said committee be requested to confer with the medical profession as to the precautions which should be observed by doctors visiting from infectious or non-infectious cases, and to report." The Chairman of the Health Committee pointed out that during the recent scarlet fever epidemic they had to increase their hospital accommodation from 80 to 478—the number of patients under treatment at one time. There was a gradual decrease of the epidemic, there being at this time 445 cases in the hospital. With the additional powers given by this Act, it is hoped that the committee will be able to exercise their strength in combating this widespread and baneful disease.

*Heroism in Humble Life.*

A distressing incident, involving the lives of two men, lately occurred during the repairs to one of the large gas-holders of the corporation. The necessary alterations in so dangerous a place were undertaken by a firm at Leeds, who employed experienced workmen. Two men engaged for a short time became unconscious from the effects of the gas and emanations from foul water in the holder. Their rescue was nobly risked by two others, one of whom and one of those previously at work lost their lives. Wide sympathy is felt for the victims and their families.

Birmingham, Dec. 18th.

### NORTHERN COUNTIES NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

*Newcastle-on-Tyne.*

At a meeting of the Tyne Port Sanitary Authority, held last week, it was stated that no less than 14,000 visits to inspect their sanitary condition had been made to vessels in the river during the past year. This of course involved a large expense, but it was believed to have been well spent. The work done in October and November included the inspection of 1269 British steamers, 590 British sailing