

pupil. From this condition the patient recovered and has become fully convalescent, her recovery being attributable less, I think, to the digitalin, fresh infusion of digitalis, &c., administered, than to the gradual drying of the lungs by evaporation as she lay many hours almost without food or liquids, so that the heart was eased of its burden. The pulse, at last account 70 to the minute, was still somewhat irregular. I may add that the urine is found free from albumen or sugar, weakly acid, specific gravity 1009 only.

I am, Sirs, yours truly,

Finsbury-square, March 3rd, 1890.

R. HINGSTON FOX.

### "QUOTATIONS" BY QUACKS.

*To the Editors of THE LANCET.*

SIRS,—My attention has been drawn to a quack advertisement in the form of a handbill, which is presumably being circulated broadcast, and which contains what purports to be a quotation from a book written by me some thirteen years ago. The sentence which is given as a quotation is one which is not of my construction, but consists of portions of three disconnected sentences pieced together to serve the purpose of the advertiser. If some notorious person of whom I disapprove were to forcibly link his arm in mine and insist on walking in public with me I presume I should have some redress for what would technically be an assault. Is there no redress for the unwarrantable use, which is often made by quacks of the writings of others, by which it is sought to make it appear that support and approval are accorded when it may be, as in this instance, that the very reverse is the case? As many members of the profession have, at one time or another, been annoyed in a similar way, you may perhaps not think it amiss to permit a little discussion of so important a subject in the pages of THE LANCET.

I am, Sirs, your obedient servant,

Wimpole-street, W., Feb. 23th, 1890.

G. V. POORE.

### TEMPERATURE AND PULSE IN INFLUENZA.

*To the Editors of THE LANCET.*

SIRS,—I can completely endorse Mr. Farbstein's experience regarding the pulse in uncomplicated influenza as described in his letter last week. But the persistence of a slow pulse-rate after the pyrexia has entirely subsided has been, in the cases I have seen, still more noteworthy. In many mild cases and in all the severe ones the pulse-rate has remained abnormally slow during the greater part of convalescence, in spite of a stimulating diet and tonic medicines.

I take this opportunity of recording the following data of attacks of influenza in the same house. On Jan. 7th last the elder daughter was suddenly prostrated with a typical attack, from which she recovered without relapse. On the 14th (seven days later) her father was struck down, and, after a serious relapse, is only now convalescent. On the 21st (seven days later) the son was attacked, but after a slight illness resumed work. On the 16th their cat was taken with violent running from the eyes and general depression and apparent illness, which in the course of a few days subsided. The cat had never suffered from anything of the kind before. These facts are interesting inasmuch as both the daughter and son excluded the cat from their rooms entirely, but their father permitted the cat to lie on his bed during the greater part of the day.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Croydon, March 3rd, 1890. JOHN J. REDFERN, M.A., M.D.

### NEURITIS IN DIABETES.

*To the Editors of THE LANCET.*

SIRS,—In an article on "Neuritis of the Circumflex Nerve in Diabetes" in your last impression, Dr. Althaus remarks that in my work on "Paralysis from Peripheral Neuritis" I am silent on the subject of the occurrence of neuritis in diabetes. He quotes the date of my book as 1888, which is an error. It was published in the early part of 1886, when little or nothing was known on this point, and I had had no personal experience in the matter. Immediately after its publication an example fell in my way in hospital practice, and was exhibited by me to the

Harveian Society in the ensuing session, a short note of the case being published in THE LANCET. It was of paraplegic form. In August, 1886, I referred to the occurrence of peripheral neuritis in diabetes in a paper read by request in the Section of Pathology at the annual meeting of the British Medical Association in Brighton, introductory to a discussion on peripheral neuritis.<sup>1</sup> Other instances have since come under my observation.

I am, Sirs, yours obediently,

March 5th, 1890.

THOMAS BUZZARD.

### LIVERPOOL.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

#### *Port Sanitary Work.*

DR. J. STOPFORD TAYLOR, the medical officer of health and port sanitary officer, has recently published his annual report of the work done in the latter capacity. From this it appears that there was very little sickness on board vessels entering the port, and that this was easily dealt with by the sanitary staff. The number of emigrants was very large, and necessitated constant vigilance on the part of the inspectors over the emigrant lodging-houses. Much credit was due to the keepers for the way in which they conducted their houses. Among the emigrants there was not more than the usual amount of sickness, and, considering the large number of young children accompanying them, the eruptive diseases were less than might have been expected. Out of 39 patients removed to hospital 28 were suffering from measles and 2 from small-pox. The number of vessels inspected during the year was 4016, of which 2844 were British, 55 American, 125 German, 450 Swedish and Norwegian, 300 Spanish, 5 Austrian, 84 Danish, 22 Dutch, 50 French, 30 Italian, 15 Belgian, 14 Russian, 9 Greek, 8 Portuguese, and 5 Brazilian. Of the total, 3752 were found in good or fair condition, and 264 defective. The condition of British vessels entering the port was most creditable to officers and men for their cleanly and tidy appearance, which remark applied from the largest mail steamer to the smallest coasting vessel. The American ships maintained their reputation for cleanliness, and the ships of the other nationalities had been on the whole satisfactory. Special reference was made to the screw steamer *Thessaly*, which arrived here on Feb. 15th with a large quantity of dead meat on board. Every facility was given by the owners to the medical officer and his inspectors. The latter found that 257 pieces of beef and 4 pieces of mutton, weighing in all 41,120 lb., were in such a condition as to require their destruction, and thus was prevented this large amount of putrid meat being distributed over the city.

#### *The Sailors' Home.*

At the annual meeting of the Sailors' Home, held last month, Dr. Bernard, the medical officer, presented the following report:—"The diseases treated during the year were of the ordinary type, and call for no special comment. The health of the boarders has been very good. Some few cases resulting from intemperance have been attended to, but they fall considerably short of the number occurring in former years. It was necessary to send several cases, chiefly affections of the pulmonary organs, to the various hospitals; and the readiness with which they were admitted, whenever room was sufficient, has been a great convenience and a comfort to the invalids, for which our thanks are especially due to the Northern and Southern Hospitals, the Royal Infirmary, and also to the workhouse authorities. The latter endeavour in every way to meet the requirements of our boarders."

#### *The Liverpool Abattoir.*

The medical memorial addressed to the city in favour of the removal of the abattoir from its present site has already received upwards of three hundred signatures, and it is fully expected that more will be received. It will be remembered that the Finance Committee refused for the second time to renew the lease, which has now about twenty years to run. At the last City Council this portion of the committee's recommendations was referred back to them for further consideration by a majority of four in a

<sup>1</sup> Brit. Med. Jour., Jan. 1st, 1887.