

seat from me if you can, and if you succeed you shall not hear a word of complaint from
Yours truly, (Signed) C. G. WHEELHOUSE.

[COPY.]

29, Threadneedle-street, London, E. C.

DEAR MR. WHEELHOUSE,—I am much obliged to you for your letter of October 30th, and regret to find that you think I am doing you an injustice in describing you as a consultant. I hope you know me sufficiently well to be satisfied that I would not knowingly misdescribe you, but I still think I am correct in contesting your claim to rank as a general practitioner. No doubt you were formerly in general practice, and the same may be said by a large proportion of our West-end consultants, but they would hardly feel flattered if they were asked to come forward to represent general practitioners on the Medical Council. For many years you have held a high position among the provincial consulting surgeons, and have been identified with a large medical school and the Leeds Infirmary, of which institution I believe you are still consulting surgeon. I can only hope that in time the general practitioners will see that their interests can be best served on the Council by those who are in actual general practice, and not those who have been.

I am, yours faithfully,
(Signed) GEORGE BROWN.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—May I venture through the columns of your valuable journal to draw the attention of holders of the new L.S.A. diploma to a matter of no little importance to them? As you have frequently urged, it is only just that after passing a very thorough and searching examination, and obtaining the new diploma of the Society, qualifying in all three subjects—the only one, in fact, registrable of itself,—the licentiate should have some more comprehensive letters than L.S.A. to place after his name, in proof to the general public that they are doubly qualified men in contradistinction to the old licentiate qualified in medicine only. The General Medical Council say they have no power in the matter, I believe; but they have allowed holders of the L.K.Q.C.P.I. to register as L.R.C.P.I. Why can they not register us as Licentiates in Medicine and Surgery? Dr. Alderson and Mr. George Brown have both pledged themselves, if elected, to urge the Council to procure a more satisfactory title for us, and it behoves every licentiate to do his best to secure the return of these gentlemen, and thus obtain for his diploma the suitable recognition which a sound London examination deserves.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,
L.S.A. (1890).

Nov. 14th, 1891.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—May I ask you kindly to insert the following in THE LANCET:—The following questions, signed by nine medical practitioners in this district have been sent to Sir Walter Foster, Mr. Wheelhouse, and Dr. Glover, with a letter asking that the replies might be yes or no. Sir Walter Foster, on behalf of his colleagues, sends the annexed answers.

I am, Sirs, yours truly,
Mossley, Nov. 27th, 1891. J. LAWTON ANDREW, M.D.

QUESTIONS.

1. Will you oppose any Bill having for its object the legalisation of practice by midwives or placing such persons on the Register?
2. Will you urge that the Preliminary Examinations to medical study be equalised upon the highest scale?
3. Will you urge the Council to increase the qualifying age to twenty-four years?

REPLIES.

1. We will oppose any Bill which will place midwives on the same level with registered practitioners.
2. Yes.
3. We have actively supported the extension of the curriculum to five years, and have thereby practically advanced the age for qualification to twenty-two years. We think any further advance demands our careful consideration, which we undertake to give.

LENGTHENING TENDONS IN DEFORMITIES OF THE HAND.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In my second Hunterian Lecture at the Royal College of Surgeons, delivered on June 10th last and published in THE LANCET of July 18th, I described a new method of lengthening tendons, and recorded a case of contraction of the fingers in which it had been successfully employed by me at St. Thomas's Hospital in October, 1889. A few weeks ago Professor Keen of Philadelphia, with whom I had had the pleasure of a correspondence on the subject of hand deformities, favoured me with a reprint of a paper read on March 4th last before the Philadelphia College of

Physicians, relating to an identical operation undertaken by himself in November, 1890, at the suggestion of Dr. Weir Mitchell. The paper was entitled "A New Method of Tenotomy, by which the Tendons are lengthened to a definite extent, instead of by the present haphazard method." Professor Keen, of course, had then no reason to believe that his case was not the first of the kind; but after receiving a letter from me pointing out the date of my operation, he has with the greatest promptitude and courtesy sent me the following reply, which I beg you will do me the kindness to insert, in order to dispose of any question that might arise hereafter.

I am, Sirs, yours obediently,
Harley-street, W., Nov. 14th, 1891. WILLIAM ANDERSON.

[COPY OF LETTER.]

"1729, Chestnut-street, Philadelphia, Oct. 13th, 1891.

"MY DEAR MR. ANDERSON,—I am greatly pleased to receive your letter of Sept. 30th. I feel that I deserve very little credit myself, because the idea was purely original with my friend Dr. Mitchell, who suggested it to me, as I stated in my paper. Any credit, therefore, really belongs to him. At the same time I will very freely admit that priority both as to idea and performance belongs to you. I had overlooked the fact that your operation was done in 1889. If you will kindly write a little note to THE LANCET calling attention to the fact it will entirely meet with my approval.

Very truly yours,
"W. W. KEEN."

"HYDATID DISEASE IN ITS CLINICAL ASPECTS."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In your issue of the 31st ult. I read a notice of a book by Dr. Graham bearing the above title. Thinking the volume would be an acquisition to the students' library here, I ordered it, naturally expecting that it would be to some extent interesting and instructive. Clinically this is so, but I was much astonished on a cursory perusal to find the following statements, and, although they are not in every case the words of the author, they are quoted by him without comment, and consequently it may be presumed he acquiesces in the views therein expressed.

Firstly, on page 17: "We also derive some parasites from animals that are used as food material. The common tapeworm and the trichina (measly pork) reach us in this way." Secondly, on page 21, there is a quotation from Leuckart to the effect that "the tænia saginata is associated with the ox almost throughout the world." Thirdly, on page 33, the author, quoting from a circular of the Local Board of Health of Victoria, says: "Dogs should never be fed with, or allowed the opportunity of eating, the offal of slaughter-houses, nor should pigs be kept there"; and in the same circular we have the following: "Fluke in sheep is another source of danger, and such mutton should be carefully avoided."

In reference to the first quotation, may I be allowed to say that I was not aware, nor do I now know, that there is any connexion between trichina and measly pork. In reference to the second, I take it for granted that Great Britain is a part, and an important part, of the world; it has not, however, as yet, been my lot to meet with an instance of the cysticercus of the T. saginata—perhaps Great Britain is excepted by the almost. In reference to the first part of the fourth quotation, I take it that all will agree in the prohibition recommended; but I fail to see in what way pigs could be either endangered, or could become the source of danger, by being fed in a slaughter-house, supposing such a thing were conceivable in any country where sanitary laws are appreciated. But in the closing paragraph of that quotation we have a remark of the most astounding nature. The author of that statement may know more of the life-history of the fluke than I do, certainly; but, so far as I am acquainted with it, I cannot associate the devouring of the muscles of fluked sheep by man with any danger to his constitution; and if the advice therein given were followed, not hundreds, but thousands of wholesome, and more or less valuable, carcasses of mutton would be consigned to destruction every year.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,
Edinburgh, Nov. 12th, 1891. THOMAS WALLEY.

TREATMENT OF ENDOMETRITIS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I have just read a paper in THE LANCET of Nov. 7th on Endometritis, by Dr. R. Cory, in which opinions are enunciated and treatment recommended which

I fear can hardly be considered as either novel or generally serviceable. Dr. Cory's views on this subject appear to me from a practical point of view somewhat below the level of modern gynæcological teaching, at least as far as that of the Dublin school is concerned; and in this respect they might seem not a little strange to anyone believing in the vaunted superior knowledge of the modern London specialist (an opinion in which I for one do not acquiesce). The medical treatment recommended by Dr. Cory—viz., "twenty grains of bicarbonate of soda and twelve grains of citric acid in an ounce and a half of water three times a day"—appears to me incompatible, but certainly has one advantage—viz., that it can do no possible harm. But how any good can be thus effected in the treatment of a disease like endometritis I certainly fail to see. The local application of iodised phenol which is now advocated by Dr. Cory is unquestionably antiquated, and has been adopted (though, as I think, in a more effective way) for many years past by myself and other Dublin gynæcologists. Nor do I understand how this or other endo-uterine application can be of any practical value in cases of endometritis until the cervical canal is previously dilated and the diseased endometrium removed by the curette, as well as the viscid mucus found in every instance, and which, if allowed to remain, must neutralise the effect of any attempted local medication. This most important point, on which the success or failure of our topical treatment mainly depends, is not even alluded to in Dr. Cory's paper.

I am, Sirs, yours truly,

Dublin, Nov. 10th, 1891.

THOS. MORE MADDEN.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—The treatment of endometritis described by Dr. Cory in THE LANCET of Nov. 7th has been used for years past by the Dublin gynæcologists, and I think I can get many of them to join with me in differing from Dr. Cory in his statement that "the application of iodised phenol is the most efficacious means of curing this disorder." This treatment was first suggested by Dr. Battey of Georgia, U.S.A., and I for one have found it fail, even when applied in a much more lasting way than merely dipping an armed probe in the solution on passing the same into the uterus. I leave the wadding saturated with the iodised phenol in the uterus till expelled (as it is sure to be sooner or later by uterine contraction); and it is now some years since I published the description of an instrument designed for this purpose. This treatment is quite sufficient when done two or three times in ordinary cases, but fails utterly in those of a chronic nature; and I have of late treated such with marked success by dilatation, curetting, and drainage by means of my spiral wire stems, which can be worn with impunity while the patient is up and about. The subsequent application of boric acid by filling the cervical canal with the powder has also given me good results. Dr. Cory's statement that "two applications of iodised phenol as a rule are sufficient" does not agree with my experience, and I feel sure other gynæcologists will bear me out.

I am, Sirs, yours truly,

Dublin, Nov. 15th, 1891.

ALEXANDER DUKE.

A MEMORIAL TO THE LATE DR. WOOLDRIDGE.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I should be much obliged if you would allow me space in your columns to invite all old Guy's men to subscribe to the memorial to our late assistant physician, Dr. Wooldridge. Only a few weeks ago an important mode of treatment was attributed to him in your columns by Mr. Arbuthnot Lane, and his researches on the coagulation of the blood have been quoted throughout the scientific world. The subscription list has been limited to Guy's men, past and present; and it entirely depends upon the amount received as to what form the memorial will take. Subscriptions may be sent to me addressed to Guy's Hospital, and will be acknowledged in the columns of the *Guy's Hospital Gazette*.—I am, Sirs, yours truly,

Guy's Hospital, Nov. 17th, 1891.

GUY MACKESON.

THE HOUSING OF THE AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS IN WEST SUFFOLK.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

THE result of the second inquiry ordered by the West Suffolk County Council with reference to the parish of Ixworth is embodied in a report made by Colonel Pocklington at the meeting of the Council held on the 2nd inst. Colonel Pocklington has arrived at conclusions directly opposed to those of Lord Francis Hervey, who held the first inquiry, and the "*fiasco* is now complete." Colonel Pocklington is of opinion "that the Thingoe rural sanitary authority has not proved its case, and if it put into force the powers it already possesses under the Public Health Act the parish of Ixworth is both able and willing to supply all the accommodation necessary without calling into play the extraneous processes conferred by the Housing of the Working Classes Act."

It is deeply to be regretted that the first inquiry held under this Act should have terminated in this manner. Other rural sanitary authorities who have been watching the march of events with the deepest interest, and who might have followed the example of the Thingoe Union had their application been successful, will now be deterred from taking any such steps. It does not appear, however, that the unfortunate issue is due to any inadequacy of the Act, but rather to the manner in which the Thingoe sanitary authority conducted its case. Lord Francis Hervey said at the meeting above referred to that "when the inquiry was first held he was placed in a position of great difficulty by the absence of testimony which might have been supplied him in support of the application by the Thingoe Union." Lord Francis Hervey, however, had taken the trouble before the inquiry was held to inspect the cottages in the village, and from the results of his own observations he asserted that "twenty houses ought to be closed and demolished," and that "the small expedients of patching and repairs were perfectly inadequate." Colonel Pocklington admits that two great blunders have been committed. "The first was made by the sanitary authority in applying for a second inquiry when they had got so far as they could see what they wanted. The second was made by the Council in acceding to the application."

Both reports are to be printed by the Council, and doubtless a study of them will prevent other sanitary authorities and other County Councils committing the blunders which have placed the Thingoe guardians and the West Suffolk County Council in such a painful yet ridiculous position. It is to be regretted that the county had not a medical officer of health, whose advice in such a matter would have been simply invaluable at the inquiries, and would probably have prevented the *fiasco* we have recorded.

LIVERPOOL.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The Mayor at the Infirmary for Children.

FOLLOWING the example of his predecessors for some years past, the newly elected Mayor (Mr. Jas. de Bels Adam) drove from St. Peter's Cathedral Church to the Infirmary for Children, where he was received by the chairman (Colonel M. Belcher), members of the honorary and resident medical staff, and visitors. The Mayor and Mayoress went through the wards, and on leaving were heartily cheered by the little inmates, who looked very smart in their little red jackets.

Two Deaths from Preventable Causes.

Within the last few days two deaths have occurred, one from the breaking of a paraffin lamp, the other from the careless handling of firearms—both perfectly preventable accidents. The dangers of paraffin lamps have been so frequently shown within the last few years that it is a perfect marvel how people can continue to use imperfect samples of them. And so also with regard to the incautious use of revolvers and other firearms. The deaths which have been caused in this way in Liverpool and its

OPEN SPACES.—The Greenwich Board of Works has voted £7000 towards the purchase of the Hilly Fields, Brockley, as an open space.